

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for placing a telephone call from a caller using a prepaid phone card, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting a caller with a caller interface having a speech recognition application;

receiving voice input from said caller in the form of phone card information spoken by said caller;

comparing said voice input from said caller with personalized prepaid phone card information previously stored in a database; and

placing a requested telephone call if said voice input from said caller matches said personalized prepaid phone card information stored in said database.

2. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, wherein said personalized prepaid phone card information stored in said database is a personal identification number (PIN) assigned to said caller's phone card and said voice input from said caller is in the form of a personal identification number (PIN) spoken by said caller, said speech recognition application comparing said spoken personal identification number with said personal identification number (PIN) stored in said database.

3. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of retrieving a telephone number stored in said database if a voice input from said caller matches a telephone number identifier assigned to said telephone number.

4. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, further comprising the step of voice prompting said caller to provide said voice input.

5. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, wherein said caller initially dials a telephone network access number to connect to said caller interface.

6. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 5, wherein said caller interface identifies said caller based on the origination of said initial telephone call.

7. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 1, wherein said database is accessible by said caller via the internet for storing and modifying said personalized prepaid phone card information.

8. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the step of providing said caller with an option to purchase additional prepaid time for said phone card via the internet.

9. A method for placing a telephone call as defined in Claim 7, further comprising the step of providing said caller with an option to store a personalized phonebook in said database via the internet, said phonebook containing a plurality of telephone numbers and associated telephone identifiers.

10. A telecommunication system for placing telephone calls from callers using a prepaid phone card, the system comprising:

a database for storing a caller's personalized prepaid phone card information; and

a caller interface having a speech recognition application for receiving voice input from said caller and comparing said voice input with said personalized prepaid phone card information stored in said database, wherein said caller interface is further adapted to place a requested telephone call if said voice input from said caller matches said personalized prepaid phone card information stored in said database.

11. A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said database is adapted to store a personal identification number (PIN) assigned to said caller's phone card and said caller interface speech recognition application is adapted to receive voice input from said caller in the form of a personal identification number spoken by said caller and is adapted to compare said spoken personal identification number with said personal identification number (PIN) stored in said database.

12. A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said database is adapted to store at least one telephone number and at least one telephone number identifier assigned to said at least one telephone number, and said caller interface speech recognition application is adapted to receive voice input from said caller in the form of a telephone number identifier spoken by said caller and is adapted to retrieve said at least one telephone number if said spoken telephone number identifier matches said telephone number identifier assigned to said at least one telephone number.

13. A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said caller interface speech recognition application is adapted to voice prompt said caller to provide said voice input.

14. A telecommunication system as defined in Claim 10, wherein said database is accessible by said caller via the internet for storing and modifying said personalized prepaid phone card information.